

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 194469  
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY AF/I-MLCHESHES:DFE

APPROVED BY AF-WHARROP

PM-ATHOMS

ACDA-WDURCH

AF/I-WHLEWIS

DOD/JCS/J-5- JMERRILL (INFO)

ARA/RPP- GJONES (INFO)

S/S-O - CASTRODALE

-----040924 020524Z /14

R 020105Z AUG 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL AFRICAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

S E C R E T STATE 194469

EXDIS, CONAKRY FOR ASST. SEC MOOSE

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PCAT, MASS, US, UR, XA

SUBJECT: US-SOVIET CONVENTIONAL ARMS TRANSFERS TALKS:  
AFRICA

REF: STATE 178349

1. THIS BRIEF WRAP UP OF THE AFRICAN ASPECTS OF THE THIRD  
ROUND OF THE US-SOVIET CONVENTIONAL ARMS TRANSFER  
(CAT) TALKS (HELSINKI JULY 18-28) IS PROVIDED FOR  
YOUR INFORMATION ONLY. THE DEPARTMENT DOES NOT RPT  
NOT WISH YOU TO BRIEF HOST GOVERNMENTS ON THE RESULTS

SECRET

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PAGE 02 STATE 194469

OF THIS ROUND. SHOULD THE SUBJECT BE RAISED WITH YOU,

YOU SHOULD NOTE THAT THESE WERE ONLY PRELIMINARY  
DISCUSSIONS AND THAT IT IS UNLIKELY WE WILL HAVE  
ANYTHING CONCRETE TO REPORT BEFORE THE END OF THIS  
YEAR. THE ACCOUNT BELOW SHOULD PROVIDE YOU WITH A SENSE  
OF WHERE WE ARE AND THUS CAN SERVE AS A FRAMEWORK FOR

ANY DISCUSSION PROMPTED BY YOUR HOST GOVERNMENT.

2. DISCUSSION OF SPECIFIC REGIONS (IN THIS CASE LATIN AMERICA AND SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA) AS NOTED IN REFTEL WAS ONLY ONE ASPECT OF THE THREE PRONGED APPROACH. THE

SOVIETS HAD ADVANCED THEIR POLITICAL/LEGAL CRITERIA WHICH WOULD GOVERN ARMS TRANSFERS AND WE PUT FORWARD MILITARY/TECHNICAL CRITERIA.

3. THE US ALSO PROPOSED, AND THE SOVIETS AGREED TO DISCUSS, INTERIM MEASURES UNDER WHICH BOTH SIDES WOULD AGREE UPON A LIST OF SPECIFIC TYPES OF WEAPONS WHICH WOULD NOT BE TRANSFERRED TO SPECIFIC REGIONS.

4. AT THIS ROUND THE SOVIETS WERE UNWILLING TO MOVE AS QUICKLY AS THE US WANTED. THE SOV DELEGATION WOULD NOT COMMIT THEMSELVES TO ANYTHING BEYOND CONTINUED DISCUSSIONS AT A SUBSEQUENT ROUND (NOW TENTATIVELY SET FOR EARLY DECEMBER). AT THE NEXT ROUND THE SOVIETS WILL BE TABLING OTHER REGIONS THEY WISH TO DISCUSS.

5. WITH REGARD TO AFRICA, THE SOVIETS WERE CAUTIOUS RE US MOTIVES. AS THEY SAW IT, OUR REGIONAL APPROACH WAS A VEILED ATTEMPT TO PREVENT THEM FROM BEING ABLE TO SUPPLY THE ARMS THAT WILL EVENTUALLY BE REQUIRED BY A  
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PAGE 03 STATE 194469

NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENT THAT WILL INEVITABLY FIGHT AGAINST APARTHEID IN SOUTH AFRICA. IN RESPONSE TO A US PROPOSAL THAT WE EACH APPROACH AFRICAN STATES TO PROMOTE THE CONCEPT OF RECIPIENT ARMS RESTRAINT THE SOVIETS EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER THE RISKS WE WOULD BOTH RUN VIS-A-VIS THE FRONT LINE STATES WHO WOULD SEE SUCH AN INITIATIVE AS AIMED PRINCIPALLY AT THEM. THE SOVIETS REMAIN TO BE CONVINCED THAT IT IS IN THEIR INTEREST TO COMMIT THEMSELVES TO ARMS RESTRAINT IN AFRICA.

6. WHILE THERE MAY BE FURTHER DISCUSSION OF SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA AT SUBSEQUENT ROUNDS OF CAT TALKS WE ARE STILL SOME DISTANCE REMOVED FROM BASIC AGREEMENT.

7. FOR MOOSE: YOU WILL BE FULLY BRIEFED ON CAT TALKS UPON YOUR RETURN. VANCE

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PAGE 01 STATE 194469  
ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /016 R

66011

DRAFTED BY IO/UNA:BJSHARP  
APPROVED BY IO/UNA:JFTEFFT  
S/S-O:MVKENNEDY

-----062136 022218Z /20

O 022155Z AUG 78  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 9150

S E C R E T STATE 194469

EXDIS - FOR AMB YOUNG FROM UNA

FOL RPT STATE 194469 SENT ACTION ALL AFRICAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS  
PARIS LONDON 2 AUG 78 QUOTE

S E C R E T STATE 194469

EXDIS, CONAKRY FOR ASST. SEC MOOSE

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UNQUOTE VANCE

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**TAGS:** PCAT, MASS, US, UR, XA  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014